ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Florence Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Union Grove Baptist Church, Near Greenhill,

Lauderdale County Alabama.

Commencing on Friday before the First Sunday in August, 1892.

Executive Committee:

L. P. FLEMING, Chairman, W. J. N. WYLIE, JNO. T. ASHCRAFT,
C. S. W. PAULK, L. W. GODBOLD, ERISTA ASHCRAFT, T. S. LEAVELL.

SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA,
COMSTOCK & BALDWIN, THE PRINTERS.
1892.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. J. N. Wylie, Gravelly Springs, Ala.
Asa Muse, Bircham's Mill, Ala.
F. M. Hutchison, Petty, Ala.
T. S. Leavell, Green Hill, Ala.
J. W. Garrett, Green Hill, Ala.
B. F. Wilson, Covington, Ala.
F. G. Posey, Lexington, Ala.
L. D. Bass, Florence, Ala.
J. C. Hudson, Florence, Ala.
W. S. Brown, Florence, Ala.
S. Muse, Green Hill, Ala.
W. H. Narrod, Cloverdale, Ala.

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MINUTES.

On Friday, August 5th, 1892, the Florence Baptist Association assembled in its Fifth Annual Session, with the Union Grove Baptist Church, near Green Hill, Lauderdale County, Alabama.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W. J. N. Wiley, with C. S. W. Paulk as Secretary and Treasurer.

After devotional exercises, the delegates were enrolled as follows:

MARTINDALE.

E. J. Baggett,
S. M. Dobbins,
Willie Newton.
F. M. Hutchison.

FLORENCE.

W. S. Brown,
L. P. Fleming,
L. W. Godbold,
Erista Ashcraft.

BLUFF CREEK.

W. J. N. Wylie,

MOUNT OLIVE.

J. T. Haddock,
M. L. Garrett,
C. S. W. Paulk.

PLEASANT VALLEY.

T. E. Jones,
John Butler.

UNION GROVE.

H. Gardner,
D. G. Gray,
T. S. Leavell,
A. M. McDonald,
J. A. McElyea,
J. W. Garrett.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

W. S. Brown, - - - Moderator.
L. P. Fleming, - - Sec. and Treas.

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. F. M. Hutchison, from John 1:29.

On motion, the association adjourned to meet at 2:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 2:30, and after devotional exercises, the following visitors reported and were invited to seats in the body:

Rev. O. E. Comstock, Mussel Shoals Association.
Miss Mattie W. Ellis, Selma Association.
Miss Pink Ellis, Selma Association.

Rev. W. J. N. Wilie submitted the following report on

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

"Your committee on Associational Missions beg leave to report that we see great need of mission work in the bounds of our association, and would urge that the church give as liberally as the Lord has prospered them, in order that this great need may be supplied. The field is ripe to harvest and the laborers are few."

Pending a motion to adopt, the report was discussed by Brethren Wylie, Fleming, Comstock and Brown. Pledges, were taken as follows:

W. J. N. Wylie -	$ 2 00	F. M. Hutchison, -	$ 1 00
T. E. Jones, - -	2 00	Erista Ashcraft, - -	1 00
A. McDonald, -	1 00	J. T. Haddock, -	2 00
C. S. W. Paulk, -	2 00	L. P. Fleming, - -	2 00
L. W. Godbold, - -	2 50		
J. A. McElyea, - -	1 00	Total, - -	$17 50
O. E. Comstock, - -	2 00		

Adjourned to meet at 9:30 Saturday morning.

Rev. O. E. Comstock preached to a large and appreciative congregation at night.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises the reports on Missions were submitted as follows:

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"We, your committee on Foreign Missions, find that there is much for us, as Baptists, to do, in spreading the Gospel truths of our Lord and Saviour. That the message of our Lord, 'Go forth and preach the Gospel to all nations,' should be more fully answered by our people. While God has blessed us in spreading His word, yet there are

millions of people who do not hear his word. This fact should cause every Baptist to give of his means as God has prospered him, that the word of God may be sent to the heathen lands.

Cary's Text: "Expect great things of God; attempt great things for God," should be our motto.

God has done great things. Sixty years ago there was not a christian in Polynesia, now the word of God is heard among them and they educate their children. The Fiji Islands sneered at Christian Missions, cannabalism reigned supreme: Of the 200,000 inhabitants 22,000 are church members, while half of the population attend divine service. A few years ago the doors of China were closed against Missionaries. To-day they are open, and the cry is, "More missionaries." Japan, Africa, Italy, Brazil, Burmah and other nations are calling for missionaries.

Let every Baptist make renewed efforts to help send the means by which 100 more missionaries may be sent out to these dying nations during our Centennial year.

Go to Him in earnest prayer for his help in the great work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

T. S. LEAVELL, Chairman.

HOME MISSIONS.

The territory covered by the Home Mission Board consists of all the Southern States and Cuba. It is useless to attempt to tell of all the destitution within these bounds, for our own association is a fair sample. Several years ago we commenced the work in Cuba, and to-day they are ahead of the Florence Association, both in contributions for the work of the Lord and in results.

Brethren, we cannot afford to lose the opportunity of saving souls. A very little money contributed annually by each church will support a missionary in this field.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. MCELYEA, Chairman.

SLATE MISSIONS.

The Florence Association should be foremost in its contributions to the State Board Board, for its needs are greater than any part of Ala-

bama. The Board has already spent a great deal of money in our midst, and received nothing from us in return. We recommend a systematic collection for State Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

Asa Muse, Chairman.

After discussion by Brethren Muse, Leavell, Wilie, Hutchison, Comstock, J. W. Garrett and Brown, the reports were adopted.

On motion association adjourned till 1:30 p. m.

afternoon session.

Association was called to order at 1:30. Moderator in the chair. Report of committees being in order, the following was submitted:

woman's work.

Your committee is convinced that the organization of the women within the bounds of the association, would be productive of gratifying results. There is located in Birmingham a central committee in charge of this work. The Secretary is Mrs. I. C. Brown, East Lake, Ala. In each association a vice-president has been, or should be, appointed and all reports are made through her, though monies are sent to our corresponding Secretary at Marion, Ala. (Rev. W. B. Crumpton.) The Baptist Mission rooms at Baltimore, Md., send to all Societies, literature, prayer cards and missionary barrels, and are anxious to aid the work in this way.

The children of many of our churches are organized into Sunbeam Societies and we believe, in this way, the young may best be educated in the grace of giving. All the societies of the women and children are auxiliary to the Southern Baptist convention, and all reports are made at the meeting of that body. Respectfully submitted,

Erista Ashcraft, Chairman.

The report was discussed by Brethren Brown, Comstock, and Wilie and adopted.

report on temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance beg leave to report that we see a great need of Temperance. Statistics show that 90 per cent. of the inmates of our jails and penitentiaries are led to crime by intem-

perance. Brethren, let us as people of God use every effort to subdue this great evil. Respectfully submitted,

C. S. W. RAULK, Chairman.

Speeches were made by Brethren Fleming, Wylie, Comstock, Brown and J. W. Garrett, after which report was adopted by a rising vote.

A collection for State Missions resulted as follows:

Cash - - -	$ 65	F. M. Leavell - -	$ 25
Pledges: M. Garrett -	50	T. S. Leavell - - -	50
C. Leavell - - -	25	J. W. Wright - -	50
Will Clemmons - -	25	C. S. W. Paulk - -	50

Brother T. E. Jones, chairman on committee of obituaries, reported two deaths since the last session.

Committee on time and place for next meeting recommended Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1893, as the time for the next session, and Brush Creek church as the place. The introductory sermon will be preached by Rev. W. S. Brown. Rev. W. J. N. Wylie was recommended as alternate. Adopted.

RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

We, your committee, recommend that our churches take and use our own denominational publications, particularly the Southern Baptist Convention Series, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tenn., and we urge our pastors to see that every family take some of our papers. We especially recommend our State paper, the Alabama Baptist. The Foreign Missionary Journal, published at Richmond, Va. The Home Field, Atlanta, Ga., and the Baptist Basket, Louisville, Ky. Respectfully submitted,

E. J. BAGGETT, Chairman.

Discussed by Brethren Comstock and Brown and adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

Rev. W. J. N. Wylie preached to a full house at night.

SUNDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises, led by Brother Muse, the following report was submitted by Brother Fleming:

We recognize in the Sunday School an institution second only to

the church of God, and sincerely trust soon to see a Sunday School in every church within our association.

The audience was then divided into four classes and the lesson for the day taught them by Rev. W. S. Brown, Misses Mattie and Pink Ellis and L. P. Fleming. A permanent Sunday School was organized with Rev. T. S. Leavell, Green Hill post-office, as Superintendent.

Rev. W. S. Brown was elected by Executive Committee as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, with C. S. W. Paulk. as alternate. Delegates to State Convention as follows: Rev. W. S. Brown, Rev. W. J. N. Wylie, L. P. Fleming. Alternates: Rev. T. S. Leavell, Erista Ashcraft and Rev. F. M. Hutchinson.

The thanks of the Association were tendered the people of the vicinity for the hospitable manner in which they entertained delegates and visitors.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Brush Creek church on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1893.

W. S. BROWN,
Moderator.

L. P. FLEMING,
Secretary.

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR ENSUING YEAR.

Sunday School—L. P. Fleming, E. J. Baggett. H. Gardener.

Temperance—Erista Ashcraft, S. M. Dobbins, M. L. Garrett.

Obituaries—C. S. W. Paulk. T. E. Jones, J. A. McElyea.

Associational Missions—W. J. N. Wylie, L. W. Godbold, J. W. Garrett.

State Missions—W. S. Brown, John Butler, J. T. Haddock.

Home Missions—L. W. Godbold, Willie Newton, A. McDonald.

Foreign Missions—L. P. Fleming, F. M. Hutchison, W. J. N. Wilie.

Woman's Work—T. S. Leavell, W. S. Brown, Erista Ashcraft.

Vice-President of Woman's Work—Mrs. Annie Ashcraft, Florence, Alabama.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS—

PRINTING MINUTES:			
Florence Church	$ 2 00		
Mount Olive	1 00		
Bluff Creek	50		
Martindale	75		
Pleasant Valley	50		
Total		$	4 75
ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS:			
C. S. W. Paulk	$ 3 00		
J. T. Dowdy	50		
F. M. Hutchison	1 00		
Asa Muse	50		
R. F. Rikard	2 00		
A. McDonald	1 00		
T. E. Jones	3 00		
W. J. N. Wiley	2 00		
Total		$	13 00
STATE MISSIONS:			
Cash	$ 65		
Total		$	65
Grand total			$18 40
Paid Treasurer to balance	$ 18 40		

TREASURER'S REPORT.

CASH RECEIPTS—

State Missions	$ 65		
Associational Missions	13 00		
Printing minutes			
Total	$		
Paid The Reaper for minutes		$	
Ballance on hand			13 65
Total		$	

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